



West Kingdom Royal Guild of Fence

Revision and Update

August 27, A.S. XL (2005)

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To reflect changes in the West Kingdom Rapier Rules of July A.S. XLI (2007)

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Charter of the West Kingdom Royal Guild of Fence

In AS 33, a Royal Guild of Fence was established for the promotion and teaching of rapier combat within the West Kingdom. The Guild is a recognized organization for the training and development of period fencing. The Charter was amended in AS 35 and AS 40 to reflect changes necessary for the continued development of the Guild and period fencing in the Kingdom of the West. The following Charter is provided for the information of all those interested in the Royal Guild of Fence.

THE CHARTER

This Royal Charter through the Wisdom and Might of Jade our most Noble Sovereign King of the West and the Grace and Beauty of Siobhan, our most Revered Queen of the West does herewith create and endow the Esteemed Royal Guild of Fence in the Kingdom of the West. The Royal Guild of Fence and its members, with the exception of the matters that fall under the responsibilities of the Rapier Marshallate and its processes, which shall be operated through the offices of the Kingdom Earl Marshal and as directed by that office, are empowered to promote, teach and serve all manner of things that pertain to the good ordering of the practice of the Period Arte and Science of Rapier Combat within the Kingdom of the West.

This Royal Charter empowers the Ancient Guildmasters of Fence, as specified Herein, and the Guildmasters of Fence who may join their Company, to do such things as are necessary to bring these Arts, Sciences and Services into good repute throughout the Kingdom of the West, and the Knowne World.

There shall be chosen from among those Ancient Guildmasters of Fence, and such Guildmasters of Fence who may join the fifth rank of the Guild, one who shall be the Lord Guildmaster and who shall be the Principal of the Guild in matters that concern it. Those who hold this position shall be of high regard in the Kingdom, and shall have their names recorded in the Bylaws of the Guild.

This Royal Charter and the Bylaws of the Guild herein sets forth the powers, rights and privileges of the said Royal Guild of Fence, and doth specify the ranks that may be attained through diligent study and service to the Guild and the Kingdom. There shall be five ranks within the Guild, these being:

Scholar: Any person who professes an interest in the Guild of Fence shall be admitted to the rank of Scholar. There are no requirements beyond an interest in Rapier in the Kingdom of the West and the study of period forms. A Scholar is granted the right to be known by said rank and may wear the badge of the guild in a tincture, that being a color other than silver or gold.

Free Scholar: A fighter, who is a member of the Guild, continues their studies in the art of rapier and has successfully played the Free Scholar Prize. A Free Scholar is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear the badge of the guild in silver.

Journeyman: An accomplished fighter, who has shown skill and dedication to Rapier in the West, continues in their studies of period forms and has successfully played the Journeyman Prize. A Journeyman is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear a green sash and the guild badge in silver.

Provost: An accomplished fighter who shares their skill and knowledge through the medium of teaching, continues in their personal studies of period schools and has successfully played the Provost Prize. A Provost is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear a Blue sash and the guild badge in silver.

Guildmaster of Fence: A teacher of period Rapier who has contributed significantly to the advancement of Rapier in the Kingdom of the West and works on directing the course of the Guild. A Guildmaster of Fence is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear a Black sash or glove and the guild badge in gold.

Each of these ranks may be attained through diligent study and application of the Rules of the Guild which can be found published in the Bylaws and following the Regulations laid out in the Rules of Rapier Combat in the Kingdom of the West. No member may make their Prize for advancement without the consent of a Guildmaster, Provost or Journeyman who shall deem them ready as laid out in the statutes of this Charter and the Bylaws.

This Charter, doth for the good of the Kingdom and the proper Development of the Noble Arte of Rapier, also known as the Noble Science of Fence establish within this Kingdom these Ancient Guildmasters of Fence, namely Sorcha Careman, Georg of Glaciers Edge, Xeno of the Blade, Jose Ramirez Coronado, Jan Kees Dudle D'Ende, Edmund the Lamé, Francois Henri Guyon, Dameon Greybeard, and Arenwald von Hagenburg. To these noble and Ancient Guildmasters of Fence, and the Guildmasters of Fence who may join their Company, we also entrust the proper training of all citizens who wish to study these several noble Arts and Sciences.

Bylaws of the West Kingdom Royal Guild of Fence

These Bylaws serve to clarify and enhance the information in the Charter of the Guild by highlighting the primary goals and duties of the officer positions and ranks, and by specifying procedures within the Guild.

Guild Officers

Lord Guildmaster (/Lady Guildmistress)

Duties

The Lord Guildmaster is the Chief Officer of the Guild and will be responsible for the promotion of the goals and maintenance of the Guild.

Term of Office

The duration of office for any Lord Guildmaster/Lady Guildmistress shall be 2 years.

Selection Process

At the end of the Lord Guildmaster/Lady Guildmistress' term of office, a successor will be chosen by them and approved by the officers and those guild members who have successfully played a Prize for the rank they hold. If the successor chosen does not meet the approval of the officers and said guild members then, a new successor is to be chosen by a method agreed upon by the officers and said guild members.

The following Guild offices will be filled as needed at the discretion of the Lord Guildmaster.

Dean of Curriculum

Duties

The Dean of Curriculum will be responsible for arranging educational outlets for the guild. Such outlets should include, but not be limited to:

- Classes at Collegiums
- Classes at the Arts and Sciences Tourney
- Arranging Guild sponsorship of displays at the Arts and Sciences Pavilion
- Promoting the establishment of Rapier Oriented Arts and Sciences competitions

Term of Office

The term of office for the Dean of Curriculum shall be 2 Years.

Selection Process

At the end of the term of office, the dean shall suggest a candidate to the Lord Guildmaster to assume the duties of the office. If no candidate is available, one can be selected by a process determined by the Lord Guildmaster.

Dean of Students

Duties

The Dean of Students will be responsible for keeping a register of all members of the guild and adding to that register any new members as they join the guild. This register should include the following information:

- The Students Name and Contact Information
- The Guild Rank of the student
- The Sponsors and Dates of the Prizes fought by the Student

This information shall be made available to the membership of the guild.

Term of Office

The term of office for the Dean of Students shall be 2 Years.

Selection Process

At the end of the term of office, the dean shall suggest a candidate to the Lord Guildmaster to assume the duties of the office. If no candidate is available, one can be selected by a process determined by the Lord Guildmaster.

Webminister

Duties

The Webminister will be responsible for arranging and maintaining a website containing relevant information of the Guild including, but not limited to:

- An Introduction to the Guild and an explanation of its function
- A copy of the Guild Charter and By-Laws
- A listing of Guild Officers including contact information
- Links to appropriate and current SCA Rapier Combat Rules
- Links to available resources of SCA Period Rapier manuals

Term of Office

The term of office for the webminister shall be 2 years.

Selection Process

At the end of the term of office, the webminister shall suggest a candidate to the Lord Guildmaster to assume the duties of the office. If no candidate is available, one can be selected by a process determined by the Lord Guildmaster.

Ranks with the Guild

Rank: Scholar

Acknowledgement:

Any person who professes an interest in the Guild of Fence shall be admitted to the rank of Scholar. There are no requirements beyond an interest in Rapier in the Kingdom of the West and the study of period forms. A Scholar is granted the right to be known by said rank and may wear the badge of the guild in a tincture, that being a color other than silver or gold.

Goals and Responsibilities:

- Work towards basic fencing skills such as advance, retreat, thrust, lunge, defensive ward and offensive ward.
- Work towards authorizing as a rapier fighter under the West Kingdom rapier marshalette.
- Attend a school or receive instruction from a Journeyman, Provost or Guildmaster.

Rank: Free Scholar

Acknowledgement:

A fighter, who is a member of the Guild, continues their studies in the art of rapier and has successfully played the Free Scholar Prize. A Free Scholar is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear the badge of the guild in silver.

On Becoming a Free Scholar:

- Must qualify as an authorized fighter under the West Kingdom rapier marshalette.
- A minimum of one month shall have passed since the beginning of their instruction in the art of period fencing.

- Obtain sponsorship from a Guildmaster, Provost or Journeyman prior to playing their Prize for advancement. This can be fought on the local level (a local event, regional practice, etc.).
- The prize will be played against at least two opponents at the rank of Free Scholar and above to the satisfaction of the Sponsor and participating Free Scholars, Journeymen, Provosts and Guildmasters.
- A failed prize may not be re-fought until a full three months has elapsed since the most recent attempt.

Goals and Responsibilities:

- Work towards developing a working knowledge of at least 3 weapons forms under the West Kingdom rapier marshalette.
- Encouraged to participate as a Marshal in Training (MIT) and to pursue authorization as a combat marshal.
- Free Scholars should actively look to Journeymen and above for assignments for service to the kingdom and the guild.
- Should strive to become familiar with period fencing techniques/schools under the instruction of a Journeyman, Provost or Guildmaster.
- Participate in displays of Combat and the Playing of Prizes by aspiring Scholars.

Rank: Journeyman

Acknowledgement:

An accomplished fighter, who has shown skill and dedication to Rapier in the West, continues in their studies of period forms and has successfully played the Journeyman Prize. A Journeyman is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear a green sash and the guild badge in silver.

On Becoming a Journeyman:

- Successful demonstration of knowledge and proficiency in at least 3 weapons forms under the West Kingdom rapier marshalette.
- A minimum of three months shall have passed since the playing of their Free Scholar Prize.
- Obtain Sponsorship from a Guildmaster or Provost prior to playing their Prize for advancement. This can be fought on the local level (a local event, regional practice, etc.).
- The prize will be played against at least two opponents at the rank of Journeyman and above to the satisfaction of the Sponsor and participating Journeymen, Provosts and Guildmasters.
- A failed prize may not be re-fought until a full three months has elapsed since the most recent attempt.

Goals and Responsibilities:

- Should work towards effective ability with all weapons styles.
- Encouraged to authorize as an Advanced Marshal.
- Should strive to become knowledgeable in period fencing techniques and masters.
- Should be active in the SCA in activities beyond the scope of the Guild.
- Should strive to become knowledgeable in Society structure and culture.
- May be called upon to assist in the management of displays of Rapier Combat and Prizes as may occur from time to time.
- With the permission of a Provost or Guildmaster, may teach Scholars and Free Scholars who wish instruction and may establish their own School of Fence to the benefit of the Kingdom.
- Continue to study under a Provost or Guildmaster.
- A Journeyman may sponsor a member of the guild of lesser rank to the playing of their prize up to the rank of Free Scholar.
- Participate in displays of Combat and the Playing of Prizes by aspiring Scholars and Free Scholars.

Rank: Provost

Acknowledgement:

An accomplished fighter, who shares their skill and knowledge through the medium of teaching, continues in their personal studies of period schools and has successfully played the Provost Prize. A Provost is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear a Blue sash and the guild badge in silver.

On Becoming a Provost:

- Successful demonstration of knowledge and proficiency in all weapons forms (with the exception of Melee) under the West Kingdom rapier marshalette.
- A minimum of six months have elapsed since the playing of their Journeyman Prize.
- At least two Provosts or one Guildmaster must sponsor the Journeymen who wish to advance to the rank of Provost. Such sponsorship will be granted only when the sponsors have determined that the Journeyman has achieved a level of participation in the Kingdom, which includes activities beyond the scope of the Guild. This must be played at a principality or kingdom level event, unless the Lord Guildmaster waives this requirement due to the Prize being played in an outlying region of the Kingdom such as the Far West or the Marches.
- The prize will be played against at least two opponents at the rank of Provost and above to the satisfaction of the Sponsor/s and participating Provosts and Guildmasters.
- A failed prize may not be re-fought until a full three months has elapsed since the most recent attempt.

Goals and Responsibilities:

- Encouraged to be able to authorize as a Senior Marshal.
- Should assist the Rapier Marshal in Charge (RMIC) and be RMIC for at least one event.
- Should demonstrate ability to teach under the supervision of a Guildmaster.
- Strive to enrich the Principality in which they live or serve the Kingdom in some notable fashion.
- Continue with their school/students established as a Journeyman or with permission of a Guildmaster should establish a School of Fence or help with a Guildmaster's School of Fence. Should keep a resume for all of their students.
- Should be sponsored and under the instruction of a Guildmaster.
- Encourages Scholars, Freescholars and Journeymen.
- Bring to the attention of their Guildmaster anyone worthy of being a Journeyman.
- Assist in the organization and coordinating of Rapier activities within the Kingdom.
- A Provost may sponsor a member of the guild of lesser rank to the playing of their prize up to the rank of Journeyman, or to the rank of Provost with the co-sponsorship of another Provost.
- Participate in displays of Combat and the Playing of Prizes by aspiring Journeyman, Free Scholars and Scholars.

Rank: Guildmaster of Fence

Acknowledgement:

A teacher of period Rapier who has contributed significantly to the advancement of Rapier in the Kingdom of the West and works on directing the course of the Guild. A Guildmaster is granted the right to be known by said rank and to wear a Black sash or glove and the guild badge in gold.

On Becoming a Guildmaster of Fence:

- A Provost interested in attaining the rank of Guildmaster shall be sponsored by a Guildmaster. That Guildmaster will bring to the attention of the circle of Guildmasters any such Provosts deemed worthy of invitation to Play the Prize for Guildmaster. They should decide if the Provost has enriched the Kingdom of The West and should play their Guildmaster Prize. Of the

Guildmasters present at an official circle the majority must agree that the Provost is ready to play their Prize.

- After due deliberation by the Circle of Guildmasters, such applicants as are deemed ready shall be offered an invitation to Play their Prize for Guildmaster. This invitation shall be after a minimum of six months of playing their Provost Prize.
- Prior to the Prize, the candidate will prepare either an original document, or an oral presentation and accompanying physical display demonstrating their knowledge of at least one Period School or Treatise of Fence to be presented prior to commencement of their Guildmaster's Prize.
- The Lord Guildmaster and the circle of Guildmasters must be informed prior to the playing of the prize. This must be played at a principality or kingdom level event, unless the Lord Guildmaster waives this requirement due to the Prize being played in an outlying region of the Kingdom such as the Far West or the Marches. There must be at least two Guildmasters participating and the Prize shall be played to the satisfaction of the Sponsor and participating Guildmasters.
- On the successful completion of the prize the individual will be known thereafter as a Guildmaster of Fence.
- A failed prize may not be re-fought until a full three months has elapsed since the most recent attempt.

Goals and Responsibilities:

- The term of Guildmaster or Guildmistress shall be used in its entirety so as not to be confused with titles used by members of the Orders of Chivalry, Laurel and Pelican.
- Should strive to continue enriching the Kingdom of the West through the Guild of Fence and beyond.
- A Guildmaster may sponsor any member of the guild to the playing of their prize.
- Participate in displays of Combat and the Playing of Prizes by aspiring members.
- A Guildmaster may create Freescholars on the spot under any circumstances that they deem worthy.
- A Guildmaster may create Journeymen on the spot for circumstances they deem worthy as long as the individual meets the requirements of a Journeyman.
- A Guildmaster is charged with promoting the creation and maintenance of schools of fence to provide all citizens the means for advancement within the Guild.
- A Guildmaster is charged with the training and guiding of Provosts.
- A Guildmaster is charged with bringing to the attention of the circle of Guildmasters any Provost deemed worthy of invitation to Play the Prize for Guildmaster, and shall endeavor to be present to play the Prize with the applicant, if at all able.

Procedures

New Members

Once professing an interest in Guild membership they shall be known as a Scholar in the Guild. They shall contact the Dean of Students that their name and contact information may be added to the Guild Roster.

Amending the Charter

Changes to the Charter may be proposed to the Lord Guildmaster by any member of the guild. Proposed changes will be presented to the Guildmasters and Guild officers for review. If agreed upon by the majority then a proposal will be prepared and presented to the Crown by the Lord Guildmaster.

Amending the By-Laws

Changes to the By-Laws of the Guild may be proposed to the Lord Guildmaster by any member of the guild. Proposed changes will be presented to the Guildmasters and Guild officers for review. If agreed upon by the majority then a proposal will be prepared and presented to the Members of the Guild by the Lord Guildmaster.

Additional Information

From time to time members of the Guild may prepare procedures and/or articles that may help with the administration and day to day working of the Guild. These may be attached as supplements to these bylaws or published as articles by the Guild member on the Guild website.

Guild Recognitions

Listing of Previous Lord Guildmasters

It was the pleasure of the Crown to name the Ancient Guildmaster of Fence, Arenwald von Hagenberg, as first Lord Guildmaster of Fence. The Ancient Guildmaster of Fence, Francois Henri Guyon, Guildmaster of Fence Jean-Baptiste Racgozany, Ancient Guildmaster of Fence and Ancient Guildmaster of Fence, Sorcha Careman have since succeeded him.

Patron/Patroness of the Royal Guild of Fence

This is a recognition within the Guild for those non-fighters who contribute greatly to the organization, maintenance and/or support of the Guild. It is not a Guild rank but rather an honor to recognize valuable and significant contributions. Recommendations may be proposed to the Lord Guildmaster by any member of the guild, who will then review the request for recognition and due presentation.